

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A ~~rigidizing mechanism~~ rigidizable device comprising:
an inner element and an outer element positioned concentrically around the inner element, wherein the inner and outer elements are flexible; and
a plurality of components positioned between the inner and outer elements, each component being distinct from the inner and outer elements;
wherein in a first state the components interfere between the inner and outer elements with a force sufficient to prevent the inner and outer elements from sliding longitudinally relative to one another, and in a second state the components do not significantly interfere with the inner and outer elements sliding longitudinally relative to one another.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~mechanism~~ device of claim 26:
wherein the components comprise an electroactive polymer.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~mechanism~~ device of claim 26:
wherein the components comprise balloons.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~mechanism~~ device of claim 26:

wherein the components are energized and expanded radially in the first state.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~mechanism~~ device of claim 26:

wherein the components are energized and contracted radially in the second state.

31. - 55. (Canceled)

56. (New) The device of claim 26:

wherein the device is rigid in the first state.

57. (New) The device of claim 26:

wherein the device is flexible in the second state.

58. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the inner element comprises a first tubular element and the outer element comprises a second tubular element positioned at least in part around the first tubular element.